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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6639

BILL NUMBER: SB 334

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 8, 2008

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Severe Weather Warning Sirens.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Waltz

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *County Responsibilities.* The bill requires each county to prepare and submit to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) a severe weather warning siren coverage report not later than December 1, 2008. The report must (1) identify all existing and planned sirens in the county; (2) identify all areas in the county that are not within the range of an existing or a planned siren; and (3) include a recommendation as to the county's need for any additional sirens. Each county that is issued an order to submit a plan must (1) adopt and submit to the DHS a siren coverage plan not later than November 1, 2009; and (2) adopt a siren coverage fee ordinance not later than December 1, 2009. The county must apportion the cost of a new siren between a planned development and existing dwelling units and buildings that will be covered by the siren; and subtract the amount apportioned to existing dwelling units and buildings from the fee imposed on a builder. A siren coverage fee ordinance takes effect on July 1, 2010.

DHS Responsibilities. The DHS must do the following not later than June 1, 2009: (1) review each county's report; (2) prepare a comprehensive map of Indiana that shows the location of each existing and planned siren identified by the counties; and (3) for each county that the DHS determines has one or more areas not covered by a siren, issue an order requiring the county to submit a siren coverage plan and adopt a siren coverage fee ordinance. DHS must adopt certain rules not later than July 1, 2008.

Siren Coverage Fee. A siren coverage fee is to be imposed on a builder that proposes a development in an area of the county not covered by a siren. The fee is to be used to defray the capital costs incurred to acquire and install any sirens needed to provide coverage for areas in the county not covered by a siren.

Severe Weather Warning Siren Fund. Each county must establish a severe weather warning siren fund into which the siren coverage fees are to be deposited. A separate account must be established within the fund

for each area identified in the county's siren coverage plan as requiring one or more sirens. Money in the account is continuously appropriated to the appropriate infrastructure agency in the area for which the account is established for use by the agency in acquiring and installing sirens.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *DHS Responsibilities.* DHS will be able to assume the responsibilities outlined in the bill given its existing level of resources.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *County Responsibilities.* The bill will increase administrative expenses for counties. The expense will vary by county and will depend on existing structures and practices. A siren that is able to project 1½ miles in each direction costs approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000. Some counties already require developers to install certain warning devices. (Additional information will be provided when it becomes available.)

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DHS.

Local Agencies Affected: Counties.

Information Sources: DHS, Association of Indiana Counties.

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